

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: To Be Assigned
Applicant: H. Kobayashi et al.
Filed: Herewith
Title: NETWORK CONNECTION APPARATUS AND NETWORK CONNECTION SWITCHING METHOD
TC/A.U.:
Examiner:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of the references listed on the 1449 form, other than U.S. patents, is enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following references are not in the English language:

- 1) JP 2003-46539
- 2) JP 7-264233
- 3) JP 2000-324154
- 4) JP 2001-168899

References 1) to 4) include English language abstracts.

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PATENT

Reference 2) is not in the English language, but a "concise explanation" under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a)(3) is set forth in the background portion of the above specification on page 4.

Reference 1) was cited in a search report by a foreign Patent Office in a patent application corresponding to the above-identified patent application. A copy of this search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office, is transmitted herewith. MPEP 609 IIIA(3), second paragraph.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dlm

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
(5) References
Search Report

Dated: March 3, 2005

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(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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Kathleen Libby
Kathleen Libby

Complete if Known

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SHEET 1 of 2

Application Number

To Be Assigned

10/526210

Filing Date

Herewith

First Named Inventor

H. Kobayashi et al.

Art Unit

/ C.F. /

Attorney Docket No

MAT-8668US

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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ² - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| /C.E./ | | JP 2003-46539 (w/English abstract) | 2/14/2003 | NEC Corp | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| /C.E./ | | JP 7-264233 (w/English abstract) | 10/13/1995 | Hitachi Ltd | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| /C.E./ | | JP 2000-324154 (w/English abstract) | 11/24/2000 | PFU Ltd | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| /C.E./ | | JP 2001-168899 (w/English abstract) | 6/22/2001 | Hitachi Ltd | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Examiner
Signature

/Candal Elpenord/

Date _____

Considered

11/29/2007

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional)

²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

*For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is being collected to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application for a patent. The collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.4. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including reviewing, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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